APPLIED JAZZ PIANO SYLLABUS

COURSE:

MUAP 3109 003  
1 semester hour  
Scheduled 50-minute weekly private jazz piano lesson.

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Ben Morris McKibben 401  
(973) 722-0460  
Benjamin.morris@sfasu.edu  
Office Hours: TBA or by appointment  
School of Music

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

50-minute private instruction in jazz piano. Each semester of jazz piano will take the student on a progressive exploration of the skills, styles, techniques, and aesthetics involved in performing jazz piano in different settings (including solo piano, small ensemble/combo piano and big band piano). Some additional weekly assignments may include transcriptions, improvisation techniques, jazz theory lessons and assignments, and original jazz arrangements and compositions. When appropriate, specific content may be included to assist individuals in achieving their creative and/or professional goals, or to rectify a deficiency in their technique. Students are expected to devote approximately 8 hours per week to practicing and working on individual assignments.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

#1 – Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic elements of music, including sight-singing and analysis.

#3 – Students will demonstrate proficiency in their applied area by completing projects, preparing performances, creating original content, and mastering skills as appropriate for their field.

#5 – Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of music history and literature from the Western art tradition, with supporting related studies in non-western traditions, practices, and cultures.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

• Students will perform and practice improvisation techniques on jazz standards (PLO#1, PLO#5)

• Students will compose original jazz works and apply jazz theory to their playing and compositions (PLO#3)
• Students will learn performance techniques for a variety of jazz piano settings, from solo piano to playing in a combo or big band (PLO#3).

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

Jazz Arranging Techniques by Gary Lindsay
The Real Book (Hal Leonard)
iReal Pro app (available here)

All other materials will be provided by the instructor, placed online for download, or placed on reserve in the library or in the composition room.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attend weekly 50-minute lesson with applied instructor and complete jazz piano assignments and any additional exploratory learning as assigned.

GRADING:

Lesson Average = 50%
Compositions, transcriptions, and arrangements = 50%

Lesson Grades are produced using this rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>35 points</td>
<td>30 points</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality*</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>35 points</td>
<td>30 points</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exploratory or Directed Learning</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>0 points</td>
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Each lesson grade (as calculated by this rubric) can be adjusted up or down by the instructor for reasons such as punctuality, attitude, related achievement, etc. Each adjustment will be documented with a rationale.

*Assessment of quality includes the following: creativity, artistic merit, idiomatic use of instruments, correct notation, inclusion of expression and articulation, and how well it fulfills the goals of the assignment.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Students are expected to attend all lessons. If it is necessary to be absent, you must notify the instructor in advance. When notification occurs the day before the lesson, every effort will be made to reschedule the lesson for an alternate time. When notification happens the same day as the lesson, the lesson may still be rescheduled, but 20 points will be deducted from the grade. Unexcused absences will be counted as a zero and cannot be made up. Students must attend at least 12 lessons and each semester.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf).

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy:

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point.
average. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

Students with Disabilities:

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Mental Health and Wellness:

SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:

SFA Counseling Service
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet)
936.468.2401

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services, Room
202 936.468.1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343S
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741